

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2048

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 12394

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (RICHARDSON, WILLIAM B.)
SUBJECT: STAFFDEL RICHARDSON

REF: STATE 262827

1. DURING ADDIS ABABA VISIT, STAFFDEL RECEIVED SERIES OF EMBASSY BRIEFINGS ON POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND DEFENSE SITUATION IN ETHIOPIA, AS WELL AS COMPLETE RUNDOWN ON US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. ON ETHIOPIAN SIDE, STAFFDEL PAID CALLS ON FONMIN KIFLE WODAJO, MOND AYALEW MANDREFO, AND MOFA DIRECTORS OF AFRICAN AND AMERICAN AFFAIRS. HE ALSO HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MEET SOCIALLY WITH OTHER MOND AND MOFA OFFICIALS, PERMANENT SECRETARY OF MINISTRY OF FINANCE, AND ETHIOPIAN BUSINESSMEN. FRENCH AMBASSADOR BARBIER PROVIDED USEFUL BRIEFING ON FRENCH PLANS FOR GRANTING INDEPENDENCE TO TFAI. ALTHOUGH DISAPPOINTED THAT NO APPOINTMENTS WITH DIRG MEMBERS COULD BE SCHEDULED, STAFFDEL APPRECIATED REASONS THEREFORE.

2. STAFFDEL'S PRINCIPAL INTERESTS INCLUDED CURRENT STATUS US-ETHIOPIAN BILATERAL RELATIONSHIP, NATURE OF USG POLICY GUIDANCE TO EMBASSY, ISSUE OF KAGNEW/ASMARA CONSULATE, CHANGING NATURE OF US MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM TO ETHIOPIA, HUMAN RIGHTS, AND US INTERESTS IN DJIBOUTI INDEPENDENCE PROCESS AND ETHIO-SOMALI CONTROVERSY. HE DEVOTED GREAT DEAL
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PAGE 02 ADDIS 12394 170450Z

OF HIS TIME TO LATTER TWO ISSUES AND, DESPITE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTION PROBLEMS INVOLVED, DETERMINED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO TRAVEL TO DJIBOUTI UPON COMPLETION OF HIS VISIT TO SOMALIA.

3. SEPTELS WILL COVER RICHARDSON CONVERSATIONS WITH

MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND NATIONAL DEFENSE.
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